

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of manufacturing a disposable undergarment comprising:
moving a web of body panel material in a longitudinal machine direction;
5 forming a cutout in said web;
cutting said web of body panel material along said longitudinal machine direction and thereby forming a rear body panel web and a front body panel web; and
connecting a crotch member to each of said rear and front body panel webs, wherein said crotch member covers said cutout.
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2. The method of claim 1 wherein said cutting said web comprises cutting said web such that said cutout is formed entirely in one of said front and rear body panel webs.
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3. The method of claim 1 wherein said cutting said web comprises cutting said web such that a portion of said cutout is formed in each of said front and rear body panel webs.
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4. The method of claim 1 wherein said cutout has a substantially circular shape.
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5. The method of claim 1 wherein said cutout has a substantially oval shape.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein said cutting said web comprises forming first and second cut edges on said front and rear body panels respectively, wherein said first and second cut edges are non-linear.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said cutting said web comprises forming first and second cut edges on said front and rear body panel webs respectively, wherein said first and second cut edges are substantially linear.

5 8. The method of claim 1 wherein said web has a body side surface and a garment side surface, and wherein said connecting said crotch member to each of said front and rear body panel webs comprises connecting said crotch member to said garment side surface of each of said front and rear body panel webs.

10 9. The method of claim 1 wherein said web has a body side surface and a garment side surface, and wherein said connecting said crotch member to each of said front and rear body panel webs comprises connecting said crotch member to said body side surface of each of said front and rear body panel webs.

15 10. The method of claim 1 further comprising stretching said web in said longitudinal direction prior to said forming said cutout in said web.

20 11. The method of claim 1 wherein said forming said cutout and cutting said web of body panel material along said longitudinal machine direction are done simultaneously with a single cutting device.

25 12. The method of claim 1 further comprising separating said front and rear body panel webs prior to connecting said crotch member thereto.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein said crotch member comprises a top sheet, a back sheet and a retention portion disposed between said top sheet and said back sheet.

14. The method of claim 1 further comprising stretching at least one of said front and rear body panels webs prior to said connecting said crotch member thereto.

5 15. The method of claim 1 wherein said crotch member comprises at least one fold, wherein said connecting said crotch member to said front and rear body panels comprises connecting said at least one fold to said front and rear body panels.

10 16. The method of claim 1 wherein said crotch member comprises an elastic material.

15 17. A disposable undergarment comprising:
a body chassis comprising at least one unitary web having first and second terminal edges defining front and rear waist edges respectively, said web having an opening formed in a crotch region thereof, wherein said body chassis has a garment side surface and a body side surface; and
an absorbent insert secured to said body side surface of said body chassis, wherein said absorbent insert covers said opening in said web, and wherein at least a portion of said absorbent insert is adapted to extend through said opening in said web when said absorbent insert is insulted with bodily exudates.

20 18. A disposable undergarment comprising:
a front body panel having a body side surface and a garment side surface and comprising a pair of opposite first laterally spaced side edges, a first waist edge and a first crotch edge longitudinally spaced from said first waist edge;
a rear body panel having a body side surface and a garment side surface and comprising a pair of opposite laterally spaced second side edges, a second waist edge and a second crotch edge longitudinally spaced from said second waist edge, wherein said first and second crotch edges are longitudinally spaced from each other, and wherein at least one of said front and rear body panels has a cutout

formed therein adjacent respectively at least one of said first and second crotch edges;

a crotch member connected to said garment side surfaces of said front and rear body panels and covering said cutout; and

5 an outer cover having a length less than a length of said undergarment measured between said respective first and second waist edges, said outer cover secured to said garment side surface of said at least one of said front and rear body panels having said cutout formed therein and covering at least a portion of said crotch member connected thereto.

10 19. The disposable undergarment of claim 18 wherein said outer cover is secured to said garment side surface of said front body panel and said cutout is formed in said front body panel, said outer cover covering an end portion of said crotch member connected to said garment side surface of said front body panel.

15 20. The disposable undergarment of claim 18 wherein said crotch member comprises a top sheet, a back sheet and a retention portion disposed between said top sheet and said back sheet.

20 21. The disposable undergarment of claim 20 wherein at least one of said top sheet and said back sheet comprises an elastic material.

25 22. The disposable undergarment of claim 18 wherein said crotch member is minimally attached to said front and rear body panel along a longitudinally extending centerline of said crotch member.

23. The disposable undergarment of claims 18 wherein each of said front and rear body panels has a cutout formed therein.

30 24. The disposable undergarment of claim 18 wherein said cutout has a substantially semi-circular shape.

25. The disposable undergarment of claim 18 further comprising at least one fastener member connected to at least one of said front and rear body panels and releasably engaging the other of said front and rear body panels.

5 26. The disposable undergarment of claim 25 wherein said at least one fastener member releasably engages said outer cover secured to the other of said front and rear body panels.

10 26. The disposable undergarment of claim 25 wherein said at least one fastener member comprises a pair of fastener members connected to said at least one of said front and rear body panels along one of said pair of opposite laterally spaced first and second side edges.